

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01

INRE-00 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 MC-02 DOTE-00 CG-00 A-01 OC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 132

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN TAKEOVER OF US INSTALLATIONS

REF: ANKARA 5780, 5775

1. FRONT PAGES OF MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES CONTINUED MONDAY
(JULY 28) TO BE DOMINATED BY STORIES CONCERNING THE AFTERMATH
OF THE GOT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ACTIVITIES AT MOST COMMON
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DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS WOULD BE HALTED AND THAT THESE WOULD

BE PUT UNDER THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF TURKISH COMMANDERS.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT ALSO REMAINED VOLUMINOUS. BUT, EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW, IT MAINLY REPEATED THEMES DEVELOPED EARLIER (SEE REFTEL).

3. FRONT PAGE EMPHASIS VARIED. HURRIYET'S MAIN STORY REPORTED THAT TURKISH COMMANDERS HAVE BEGUN TAKING OVER THEIR DUTIES AT U.S. INSTALLATIONS. SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING MILLIYET AND GUNAYDIN, FOCUSED PRINCIPALLY ON STATEMENTS BY SENATORS SCOTT, MANSFIELD AND TOWER ON THE SERIOUS EFFECTS OF THE TURKISH ACTION, GUNAYDIN'S BANNER HEADLINE, BASED ON A REPORTED STATEMENT BY SENATOR SCOTT, DECLARED THAT: "TURKEY COULD BECOME A GREAT ATOMIC POWER."

4. AMONG OTHER DEVELOPMENT RECEIVING TOP PLAY WAS A STATEMENT BY REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT THAT, HAD THE GOVERNMENT ACTED EARLIER ON THE EMBARGO QUESTION, THE PRESENT SITUATION MIGHT NOT HAVE ARISEN. ECEVIT MADE THE STATEMENT PRIOR TO LEAVING ROMANIA, WHICH HE HAS BEEN VISITING FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS.

5. SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THAT TURKEY HAD CALLED A MEETING OF THE NATO COUNCIL TO EXPLAIN HER ACTION. OTHER STORIES NOTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS CONFERRED WITH WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS IN BONN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN TURCO-U.S. RELATIONS. THESE ACCOUNTS INDICATED THAT WEST GERMANY WAS PREPARED TO PLAY A MEDIATOR'S ROLE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

6. MILLIYET, BARIS, TERCUMAN AND SEVERAL OTHER DAILIES SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD MAY TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AT HELSINKI. TERCUMAN CARRIED A BANNER HEADLINE WHICH DECLARED: "DEMIREL: 'NEVER ANY CONCESSIONS'". THE STORY SAID THAT SOURCES CLOSE TO PRESIDENT FORD SAID SUCH A MEETING WAS PLANNED, BUT THAT IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHETHER IT WAS STILL ON. THE SAME STORY QUOTED A TURKISH MFA OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT "WITH RESPECT TO THE HELSINKI MEETING, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REQUESTS. BUT NO ANSWER HAS YET BEEN GIVEN." THE SAME OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD MAKE NO RPT NO CONCESSIONS REGARDING "MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN THE FACE OF THE EMBARGO."

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7. IN OTHER COVERAGE, MILLIYET CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH DEFENSE MINISTER FERIT MELEN, WHO SAID THAT MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE GOT'S DECISIONS OF LAST FRIDAY ARE BEING TAKEN STEP BY STEP AND THAT THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN A DAY OR TWO. MILLIYET ALSO CARRIED A DENIAL BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN IZMIR OF A STORY SUNDAY (SEE REFTEL) THAT THEY HAD BEGUN AN INVENTORY OF GOODS IN U.S. PX'S.

8. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, OPPOSITION GUNAYDIN DECLARED THAT MERELY RAISING THE TURKISH FLAG OVER COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS WAS NOT ENOUGH. "AS LONG AS AMERICAN PERSONNEL KEEP THEIR POSITIONS ON THESE BASES AND MONITORING DEVICES KEEP FUNCTIONING AND THESE BASES MAINTAIN THEIR IMPORTANCE AS TARGETS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, THIS MEANS THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA STILL CONTINUE AS THEY WERE," THE PAPER SAID.

9. IN OTHER COMMENT, MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI SAID THAT THERE CAN BE NO TURNING BACK: "EVEN IF A MIRACLE OCCURRED AND THE U.S. CONGRESS WERE IMMEDIATELY TO REVERSE ITSELF AND LIFT THE EMBARGO COMPLETELY, THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT COULD NO LONGER PERMIT CONTINUATION OF THE AMERICAN BASES AND PRIVILEGES IN TURKEY AS BEFORE."

10. CONSERVATIVE, PRO-DEMIREL SON HAVADIS AGAIN CONDEMNED THE AMERICAN EMBARGO IN HARSH TERMS, BUT ADDED: "WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO WILL TRY TO EXPLOIT TURKEY'S FEELINGS....THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THEIR INCITEMENTS. MR. ECEVIT IS TRYING TO SHOW THE WAY TO THE TURKISH NATION BY MAKING STATEMENTS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. OUR WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO AND CENTO IS DEMANDED. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR SUDDEN AND IMPULSIVE DECISIONS IN POLITICS."
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